

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 have been amended. Claims 1 to 10 remain active in this application.

The claims have been amended to overcome the objections thereto.

Claims 1 to 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Shao et al. publication IEE Transactions On Communications, Vol. 47, No 8, August 1999. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 requires a decoder adaptive abort criterion based on the mean and the variance of partially decoded extrinsics. No such feature is taught or suggested by Shao et al. None of the equations of Shao et al. relate to both mean and variance. In fact, as stated in the second column of page 1117, the Gaussian random variable is stated to have “zero mean” and a variance σ^2 . It therefore further follows that the mean is set at zero and not taken into account in any event. This is further evidenced by the fact that no character reference is provided for the “mean”. It follows that there is no decoder adaptive abort criterion based on the mean and the variance of partially decoded extrinsics found in the Shao et al. publication.

This feature is also found in each of claims 3, 5, 7 and 9 and, accordingly, these claims also define patentably over the Shao et al. publication for the reasons set forth above with reference to claim 1.

Claim 2 further limits claim 1 by requiring that the abort criterion be generated as a ratio of the mean and the variance of the extrinsics. No such feature is taught or suggested by Shao et al. either alone or in the combination as claimed for reasons stated above with reference to claim 1.

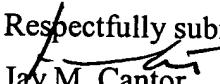
Claim 4 further limits claim 3 by requiring that the quality attribute be generated as a ratio of the mean and the variance of the estimates. No such feature is taught or suggested by Shao et al. either alone or in the combination as claimed for reasons stated above with reference to claim 1.

Claim 6 further limits claim 5 by requiring that the signal-to-noise ratio be computed by dividing the mean of the extrinsic values by the variance of the extrinsic values. No such feature is taught or suggested by Shao et al. either alone or in the combination as claimed for reasons stated above with reference to claim 1.

Claim 8 further limits claim 7 by requiring that the quality attribute be generated as a ratio of the mean and the variance of the estimates. No such feature is taught or suggested by Shao et al. either alone or in the combination as claimed for reasons stated above with reference to claim 1.

Claim 10 further limits claim 9 by requiring that the quality attribute be generated as a ratio of the mean and the variance of the estimates. No such feature is taught or suggested by Shao et al. either alone or in the combination as claimed for reasons stated above with reference to claim 1.

In view of the above remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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